

NYS Office of Fire Prevention & Control
Scene Support Operations, Firefighter I & Firefighter II Course Outlines

State Fire Administrator James Burns directed NYS OFPC to conduct a pilot evaluation of combining the Basic and Intermediate Firefighter training course into a "Firefighter I" package. This includes renaming Advanced Firefighter to "Firefighter II" and the development of a "Scene Support Operations" course for non-interior responders.

This is based on the over a 50% decrease in student completions from Basic Firefighter to Intermediate as shown below:

<u>Calendar Year 2001</u>			<u>Calendar Year 2002</u>		
Basic FF	167 courses	3,288 students	Basic FF	193 Courses	3,563 students
Intermediate FF	83 courses	1,255 students	Intermediate FF	89 courses	1,429 students
Advanced FF	33 courses	461 students	Advanced FF	39 courses	574 students

Basic Firefighter does not qualify an individual for interior structural firefighting operations. It was OFPC's intent with the introduction of Basic, Intermediate and Advanced FF courses to make attendance and eventual completion of (as a minimum) Basic and Intermediate more appealing to the volunteer fire community. This is not happening.

Based on this, a new "Firefighter I" and "Scene Support Operations" course were developed and piloted this fall. The courses are described as follows.

The following matrix outlines how this new program compares to earlier training deliveries:

ESSENTIALS Pre-1998	BASIC/INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED 1998	FIREFIGHTER I & II 2004
Essentials (39)	Basic (42) Intermediate (36) HazMat First Responder Ops (16) WMD Awareness (4) Confined Space Awareness (6)	Firefighter I (78) Also includes limited skills from Firefighter Survival & Mask Confidence
Fire Behavior (12)		
Initial Attack (18)		
Emergency Control of HazMat Incidents I (16)		
WMD Awareness (4)		
Confined Space Awareness (6)	Confined Space Awareness (6)	
95 Hours	104 Hours	78 Hours
Fire Attack II (12)	Advanced (24)	Firefighter II (27)
107 Total Hours	128 Total Hours	105 Total Hours

Course 1R - Scene Support Operations - 27 hours/9 lessons

- ☐ Piloted Sept. 2003 in Allegany and Orange Counties
- ☐ Available January-2004
- ☐ No prerequisites for this course
- ☐ Course is stand-alone – replaces no other course
- ☐ Target students will be non-interior responders (Fire Police and EMS Personnel)
- ☐ Designed for entry-level EMS or Fire Police Only responders.

Responder must then take Hazardous Materials First Responder Operations course to respond to the release or potential release of hazardous materials incidents as defined by OSHA 1910.120.

Course has some hands-on skills but is mostly classroom and can count as initial new member safety training if commensurate with their duties that they are expected to perform at the emergency scene.

Course 1S - Firefighter I - 78 hours/26 Lessons

The "Firefighter I" course is designed to prepare the student for work as a "combat ready" interior structural firefighter.

Successful firefighters will be eligible to test for National Certification at the "Firefighter I" level with some additional basic first aid training. The state course alone does not provide national certification – additional testing is required.

Firefighter I Offers:

- A better instructor to student ratio:
 - Minimum of 10, maximum of 20 students
 - 1 additional instructor for skill nights for classes 10-15 students
 - 2 additional instructors for skill nights for classes of 16-20 students
- Flexible scheduling configurations: 78 hours or 26 lessons scheduled as needed with a break, weekends only, week nights only, or any combination thereof (based on instructor and facility availability).
- Piloted in Sept. 2003 in Columbia, Wyoming and Ulster Counties – Feedback has been extremely positive
- Available April-2004
- No prerequisites for this course.
- Course replaces 91-Basic Firefighter and 92-Intermediate Firefighter
- Course includes equivalents of:
 - 91-Basic Firefighter (42-hours)
 - 92-Intermediate Firefighter (36-hours)
 - 31-HazMat First Responder Operations (16-hours)
 - 84-WMD Awareness (4-hours)
 - 35-Confined Space Awareness & Safety (6-hours)
 - Incident Management System I-100 (2-hours)
 - Key skills from 87-Firefighter Survival and 27-Mask Confidence
 - = Course provides over 104 hours of training in 78 hours
- 91-Basic Firefighter will no longer be available after April-2004
- 92-Intermediate Firefighter will no longer be available after April-2005
- Ability of students to make up missed lessons with other instructor guided assignments during course. The student remains responsible for the material missed for testing purposes. However the student cannot miss any practical lessons.

Students will receive all pertinent OSHA training with the exception of local policies and Blood Borne Pathogens.

This course, combined with a standard first-aid/CPR course, will permit the student to sit for the National Firefighter-I certification exam.

Subjects are not split as in Basic/Intermediate Fire fighter program. (ie. They learn how to use the tools as well as what they are named.)

There are two written quizzes: one quiz at mid term and one quiz at the end of the course. There are skills checks throughout the course.

In the event that the student does not successfully pass the written quizzes with a 70% average grade (after 2 attempts each quiz) and skills checks they will receive certificates for Scene Support Operations, Hazardous Materials First Responder Operations, WMD Awareness, and Confined Space Awareness and Safety.

Students who take the Scene Support Operations course and wish to be trained as an interior structural firefighter can begin Firefighter I at lesson 4.

Students who took Basic Firefighter and would like to become an interior structural firefighter may also begin Firefighter I at lesson 4 (Advanced SCBA Skills begin in lesson 4).

The ability of the student to perform the skills is the primary concern of the course.

Course 1T - Firefighter II - 27 hours

- Targeted delivery date not set yet
- Prerequisites for this course are completion of Basic and Intermediate, or Firefighter I
- Course replaces 93-Advanced Firefighter
- Curriculum is being reviewed. Few changes anticipated.
- The "Firefighter II" course will provide the fire department with a firefighter who could act as a crew leader and who is eligible to test for National Certification "Firefighter II" with 15-Accident Victim Extrication Training. The state course alone does not provide national certification – additional testing is required.

The Facts about the Firefighter 1 & 2 Training Program

- ❑ **FACT:** The Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC) is not increasing the training requirements for volunteer firefighters. The minimum level of acceptable training is still the option or requirement of the local fire department, authority having jurisdiction. The training standard for firefighters is CFR 29, 1910.156
- ❑ **FACT:** A common misconception is that National Certification testing is mandatory and not an option. Again, this is not true. The course materials will provide the student with the knowledge, skills and abilities to perform effectively as a member of a firefighting team. If an individual chooses, he or she may apply and test for national certification. Again this is not a mandated requirement.
- ❑ **FACT:** OFPC has conducted three pilot courses and the student feed back is entirely positive. A number of students indicated to us that the 78 hour time frame and testing requirement are not a deterrent to participating in this program.
- ❑ **FACT:** The curriculum includes basic firefighting skills, hazardous materials operations, confined space awareness and weapons of mass destruction awareness which previously would require a student to attend over 106 hours of course instruction. The Firefighter 1 program accomplishes this in 78 contact hours and on completion, provides a firefighter who is ready to respond.
- ❑ **FACT:** The scene Support Operations course is a training program the volunteer fire service has been requesting for a number of years. This course is designed for individuals, such as fire police or emergency medical members who will not be involved in interior structural firefighting operations. It provides the basic knowledge so they can assist on the fire ground without entering a burning structure.
- ❑ **FACT:** These programs are not geared toward the career fire service, as New York State has standards in place addressing the training of career staff.
- ❑ **FACT:** As the state fire training agency, it is our responsibility to deliver training programs that adequately prepare a student to perform the assigned task of firefighting.

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